

STATEWIDE

HABITAT PLAN



IMPLEMENTATION OF
FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS COMMISSION
HABITAT MONTANA POLICY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE	
Introduction	4
CHAPTER TWO	
Present Direction	7
Criteria for identifying and choosing important habitats that are seriously threatened	8
CHAPTER THREE	
Process Chart	13
Actions needed to complete a land project.	
CHAPTER FOUR	
Databases	
Resource information which apply to criteria	17
CHAPTER FIVE	
Format Documents	
Appropriate formats and instructions for successful completion and dispersal of the following documents:	
Responsibilities Assigned	19
Regional Land Proposal	21
Environmental Assessment	24
Socio-Economic Report	28
Baseline Inventory Format	29
Site Management Plan	31
Project Timeline Chart	34
CHAPTER SIX	
Partnerships	36
Guidelines for developing partnerships with organizations to aid land acquisition process.	
CHAPTER SEVEN	
Marketing	38
Information format to keep the public informed about the habitat program; land acquisitions; and management strategies on the properties.	
CHAPTER EIGHT	
Expenditures	41
Information of the accounting process for Habitat Montana.	
CHAPTER NINE	
Program Evaluation	43
Methodology for evaluating public understanding of the program, and its changing needs.	



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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Since the 1940's, direction of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) wildlife program has been based on the fundamental tenet by Aldo Leopold that "game management is the art of making the land produce sustained annual crops of wild game for recreational use." Concurrent with such program direction was the development of an active "land program."

Initially, the main objective of the land program was the acquisition of critical habitats for game animals, primarily winter range for elk, and nesting and resting areas for waterfowl. These acquisitions generally focused on a single species or group of species and were developed and managed to produce and enhance the welfare of the desired species. Several of the acquisitions were made to alleviate game damage problems or reduce game-livestock competition. Land uses such as livestock grazing, which were viewed as being in direct competition with the wildlife resource, were eliminated from the acquired lands. The wildlife land program continued on this path from 1940 until the mid 1970's.

As the wildlife management profession continued to grow and mature, wildlife managers learned that different land uses did not have to compete, but could be mutually beneficial. For example, livestock grazing, when managed with a focus on the land and plants, did enhance wildlife production.

Land acquisition, while conserving a particular habitat, did so only for a relatively small amount of land. Land values and social resistance precluded purchase of extensive acreages. Land acquisition was dependent on an unreliable funding source. In 1987, the sportspeople of Montana proposed legislation to provide a stable, earmarked funding source for a wildlife habitat acquisition program. The law, referred to as HB526, provides an earmarking of hunting license dollars with an annual income of approximately \$2.8 million.

Today, the wildlife program still operates on Leopold's fundamental tenet, but FWP's approach and purpose for making the land produce sustainable crops of wildlife has broadened. The basis for management action and decisions on department wildlife land now revolves around improving and enhancing the land's capability for the benefit of many species and land uses.

Agreements and leases have been developed with private landowners to utilize department lands for rest-rotation grazing in return for like habitat management on private lands. Sharecropping of department owned agricultural lands is also practiced. Trading fee title of department owned land encumbered with covenants on private lands is also being pursued. These arrangements not only improve the capability of these areas to "produce," they also benefit everything that depends upon that land, including wildlife and their habitats, the sportsperson, the cooperator, neighboring landowners and the local community.

Projects to directly improve wildlife habitat and public access to wildlife resources on private and public lands through funding from earmarked license revenues show great potential. These projects help landowners and sportspersons by mutually benefitting each other. Partnerships are

being developed that will affect positive changes regarding land management to the benefit of the land and all that depends on it. These partnerships are dynamic and individualized to meet not only the needs of wildlife and sportspersons, but also achieve the goals of the respective cooperators. The department has learned that success in affecting positive and lasting change in land use management requires involvement by those who have a vested interest in the land. Further, the department can be more effective as a major land managing influence without being a major landholder.

The 1991 Montana legislature mandated a study of the FWP habitat program. The result has been the development of a habitat policy by the FWP Commission and a habitat plan by the department to implement that policy. Together this is referred to as Habitat Montana.

Though the needs of all parties may never be fully satisfied, conflict can be minimized. More importantly, securing interests in land can proceed in a manner justifiable both to the public and department personnel by using a systematic approach to evaluate the merit of each proposal as it relates to department goals and the art of making the land produce.

The accompanying action plan provides the criteria for decision makers to evaluate, rank and reasonably support department involvement in land management projects.

CHAPTER TWO

CRITERIA

*for identifying "important habitats that are
seriously threatened"*

(Statement of Intent of HB 526 of the 50th Montana Legislature)

PRESENT DIRECTION

The FWP Commission and department recognized the need to move ahead with the land program while data bases were being compiled and updated. The wildlife division mapped habitats across the state that were facing potential change which would negatively impact the habitat. This information was utilized to establish the present direction of the program.

The wildlife division administrator, together with wildlife managers, set direction for the wildlife land program in October, 1993.

GOAL: *Beginning in October, 1993, for the next two years, the intermountain grassland, shrub-grassland, and riparian ecosystems will be the focus of wildlife habitat acquisition, with the objective of conserving approximately 10% of each of these ecosystems.*

The goal statement was not developed to overlook other ecosystems, but habitat mapping from each region made it immediately apparent that the three ecosystems mentioned are the ones in most need of attention.

The intermountain grassland is the major site of subdivision activity.

Shrub-grassland has been reduced to a fraction of its original distribution through sodbusting and other activities. It comprises only 8% of the Montana land base and is still negatively impacted by management activities such as grazing management, burning, spraying, and continued sodbusting.

The riparian ecosystem is the most productive, diverse type, making up only 1% of Montana's landscape. It is also an ecosystem subject to intensive land management practices which could significantly reduce the habitat's capacity to produce wildlife.

CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING "IMPORTANT HABITATS THAT ARE SERIOUSLY THREATENED."

LEVEL I STATEWIDE HABITATS¹

MONTANE FOREST
INTERMOUNTAIN GRASSLAND
RIPARIAN
SHRUB GRASSLAND
PLAINS FOREST
PLAINS GRASSLAND

LEVEL II FOCUS AREAS BETWEEN AND WITHIN STATEWIDE HABITATS

To focus on areas which meet the following criteria:

RESOURCE VALUES²

- the habitat exists only in a portion of its original distribution or condition (i.e. shrub-grassland).
- the habitat has desirable qualities of productivity (i.e. riparian).
- the habitat has unique characteristics to the biological/ecological community (i.e. wintering area, breeding area, corridor to keep large expanses of habitat intact).

¹These were identified by FWP plant ecologist Dr. Henry Jorgensen for the Wildlife Programmatic EIS and Habitat Montana based on POTENTIAL VEGETATION OF THE U.S., Kuchler, Univ. of Kansas.

²Databases to apply these criteria are from Montana Natural Heritage Program "Sensitive Species" overlay; ASCS CRP contract listings; US Fish and Wildlife Service Wetlands Inventory; USFWS GAP Analysis and FWP Wildlife Inventory/Habitat mapping.

THREAT STATUS³

- IMMINENT: the land is proposed for activity which will cause irreversible impacts in the near future (ie. within a year).
- PROBABLE: the TRENDS have been toward conversion of the habitat type (i.e. sodbusting; subdivision).
- POSSIBLE: the land is likely to change ownership, resulting in negative land uses.

DEGREE OF PROTECTION⁴

- Land is adjacent to or in close proximity to private land that is already permanently protected or that is likely to be in the foreseeable future.
- Land is adjacent to or includes federal or state land that will be managed to meet FWP objectives.
- Land is of sufficient size that its conservation values will remain intact even if adjacent land has incompatible uses.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION⁵

- How is the land located in relation to other properties managed for wildlife conservation?
- Are there land projects in each ecoregion⁶

³Databases to apply these criteria are from Montana Natural Heritage Program water wells overlay; FWP Wildlife Programmatic EIS data collection and evaluation, i.e. human demographics; SCS/BLM/FS land management files.

⁴Databases to apply these criteria from Heritage Program "Managed Areas" overlay; land ownership maps; and FWP field personnel site evaluation.

⁵Databases to apply these criteria are from Montana Natural Heritage Program "Managed Areas" overlay.

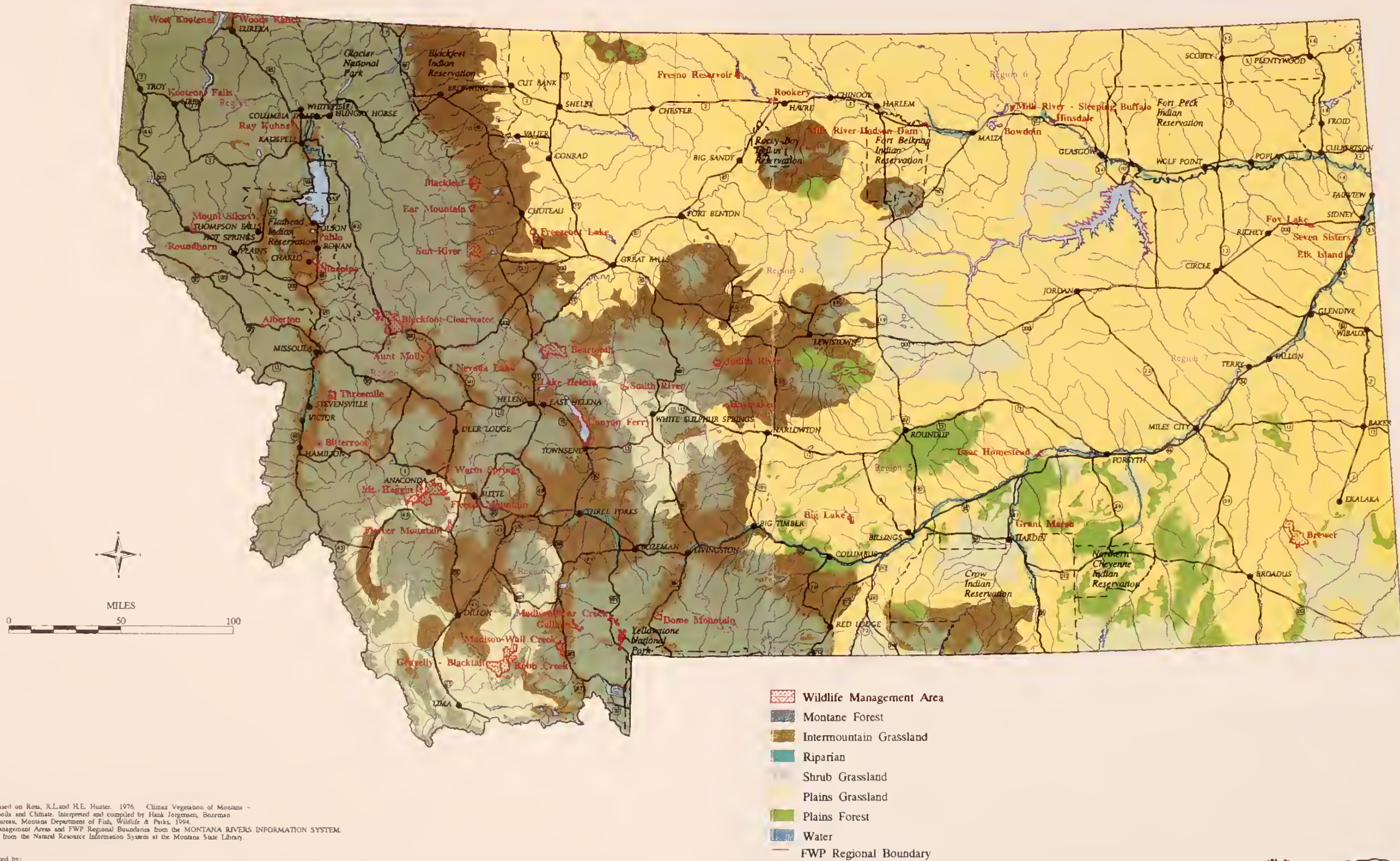
⁶ecoregions are administrative regions based on ecosystem boundaries as defined by Lemke, 1993. Fed. Aid Grant Proposal 1993 - 1999.

LEVEL III CRITERIA FOR INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS⁷

- conserve and enhance land, water and wildlife
 - a. How many acres affected?
 - b. Which wildlife species conserved?
- contribute to hunting and fishing opportunities
 - a. What type of access provisions?
 - b. How many hunter/fisher recreation days?
- provide incentives for habitat conservation on private land
 - a. Are the conservation terms sufficient to protect the habitat?
 - b. What habitat enhancement activities are planned?
- contribute to non-hunting recreation
 - a. What form of recreation?
 - b. How many recreation days?
- protect open space and scenic areas
 - a. What are the special values and urgency?
- maintain the local tax base, while demonstrating that productive wildlife habitat is compatible with agriculture and other land uses.
 - a. Change in tax dollars to the county?
 - b. How do wildlife habitat objectives fit with agricultural practices?
- type of acquisition proposed?
 - a. easement
 - b. fee title
 - c. lease
- purchase options: cost per acre
 - 1) landowner donates a portion of the value.
 - 2) pay full appraisal value/or market value.
 - 3) pay above appraised value
- management cost: see regional land proposal

⁷Criteria are from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission Habitat Montana Policy.

COMPARISON OF MONTANA'S WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND ECOSYSTEMS



Eco-types based on Rios, R.L. and H.E. Hustler. 1976. "Climate Vegetation of Montana - Based on Soils and Climate. Interpreted and compiled by Hank Jorgensen, Bozeman Research Bureau, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1994.
Wildlife Management Areas and FWP Regional Boundaries from the MONTANA RIVERS INFORMATION SYSTEM.
Base layers from the Natural Resource Information System at the Montana State Library.

Map produced by:
MONTANA RIVERS INFORMATION SYSTEM
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 1
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-752-6501

01/20/95 - LB - /fwpy/home/ecowtwa.cmp



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

CHAPTER THREE

PROCESS CHART

responsibilities and timeframes

FLOW CHART

WILDLIFE LAND PROJECT

Program parameters delineated to regions through Commission Policy and Program Direction from Wildlife Division Administrator. Project implementation administered by Field Services Administrator. Ensures policy program directions are followed. Program direction to regions from wildlife division administrator and commission policy. Commission decides which projects are initiated based on wildlife division administrator recommendation. Commission has final decision on land acquisition. Individual land projects, once initiated by commission are implemented by Field Services Administrator.

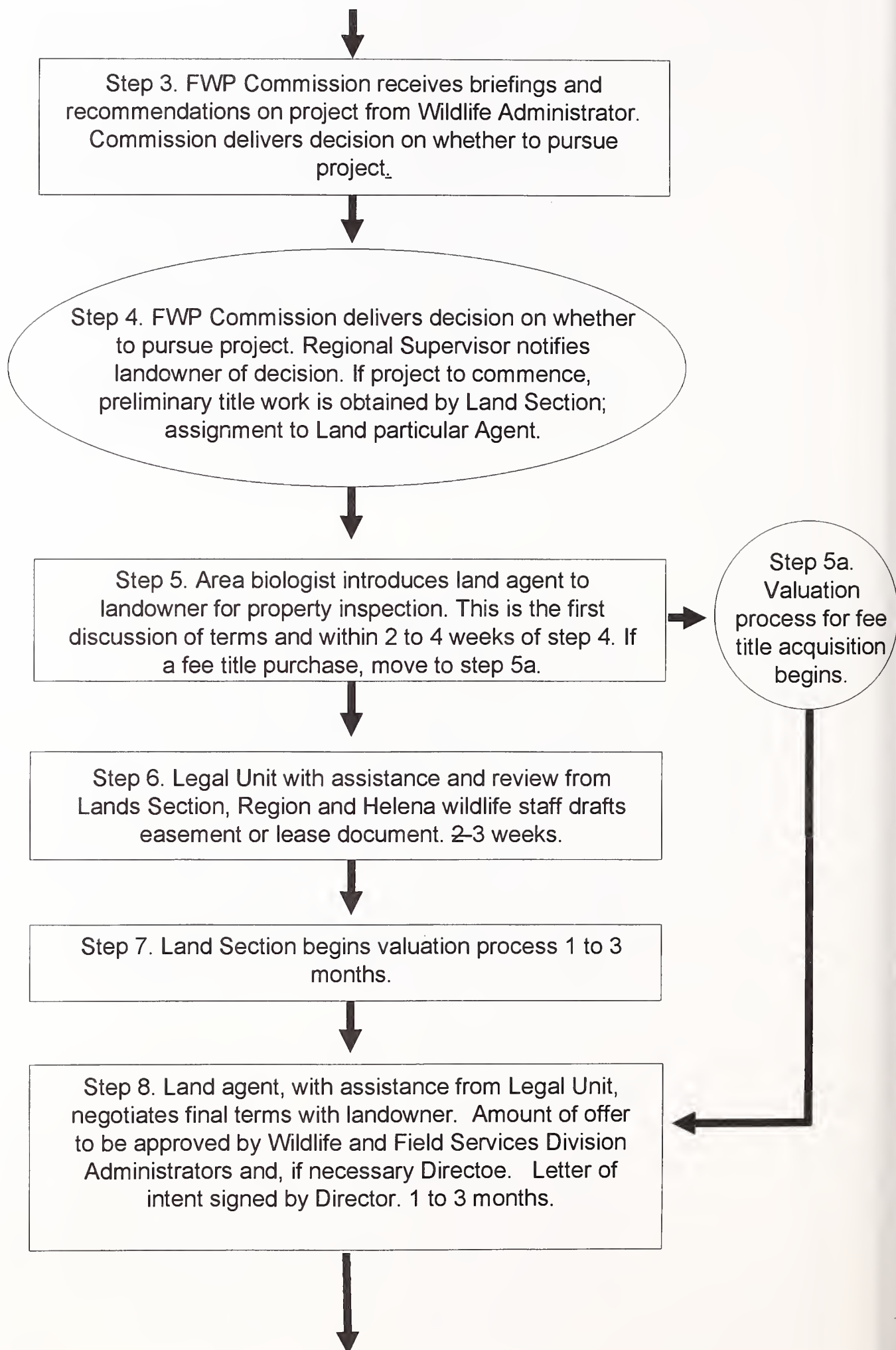


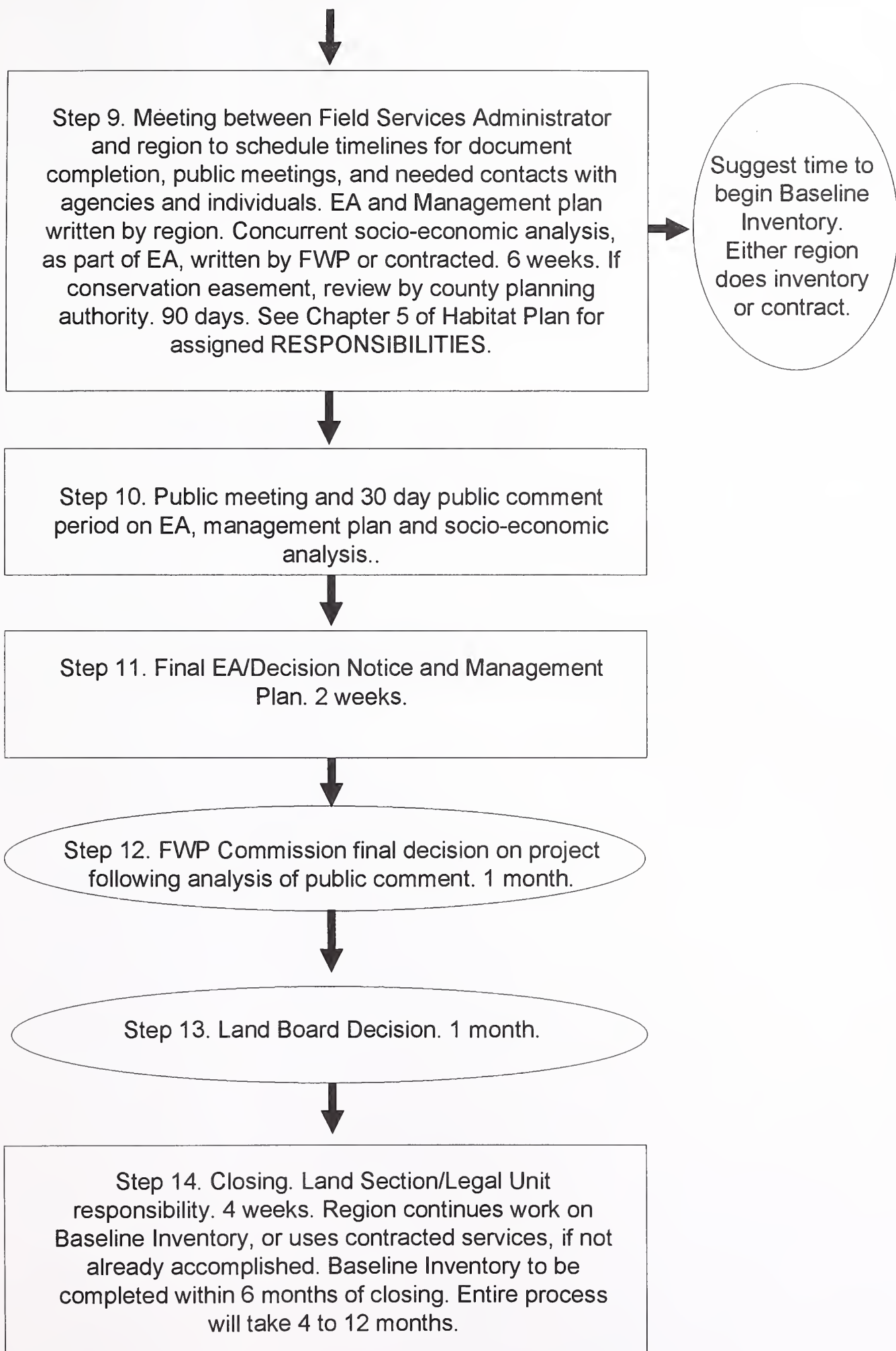
Step 1. All land projects first reviewed/proposed by appropriate regional office. Region does not negotiate terms of agreement with landowner at this time- Region sends proposed project on Regional Land Proposal form to Program level, Wildlife Division Administrator. Proposal is tested against program criteria and region notified of decision within two weeks of receipt of written proposal. Proposal is discussed with region. If decision is negative, Regional Supervisor may request review by Director. Director, Regional supervisor, Wildlife Division Administrator and Field Services Division Administrator meet and review project. Director makes decision based on review. If decision is negative, region notifies landowner. If decision is positive, go to Step 2.



Step 2. Region wildlife staff (wildlife manager and biologist) meet with Helena wildlife staff (administrator and habitat bureau) and Field Service Administrator. Decision is made on feasibility of project; objectives; and strategy. This will occur within two weeks of step 1 decision. This is beginning of land project.







CHAPTER FOUR

DATABASES

PRESENTLY AVAILABLE

1. October 1993 regional habitat mapping.
2. Montana Natural Heritage program "managed areas" overlay (partial).
3. Montana Natural Heritage program "sensitive species" overlay (partial).
4. ASCS CRP listing.
5. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks demographics map.
6. Bureau of Land Management statewide landownership map.

CHAPTER FIVE

FORMAT DOCUMENTS

RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED
REGIONAL LAND PROPOSAL FORMAT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORMAT
SOCI-ECONOMIC FORMAT
BASELINE INVENTORY FORMAT
SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN FORMAT
PROJECT TIMELINE CHART

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR environmental assessment, socio-economic analysis, management plan, public meeting, baseline inventory and related items.

- I. Individual project timeline chart. *Responsibility of Field Services Administrator*, in consultation with regional supervisor, wildlife division administrator and legal unit.
- II. Draft EA (with socio-economic analysis) and management plan (30 day comment period) and public meeting in the area of the acquisition. Meeting will be tape recorded. *Responsibility of Regional Supervisor*. Field Services administrator will assist in assigning the socio-economic analysis. Copies of documents and public meeting record sent to "Proof File," the Legal Unit.

A. Notice to public on public meeting and release of documents. *Responsibility of Regional Supervisor*.

- 1) Notice will be a paid advertisement in newspapers of Missoula, Great Falls, Billings, and the local paper of where the meeting is held. First notice will be two weeks before public meeting, second notice will be one week before public meeting.
- 2) Wildlife division statewide constituency mailing list will be used to mail copies of documents.
- 3) The statewide Electronic Bulletin Board will also receive copies of documents. Documentation to "Proof File," Legal Unit. Responsibility of Field Services Administrator.

B. Personal contact with all adjacent landowners by the project biologist. Deliver documents, environmental assessment, socio-economic and management plan. *Responsibility of Regional Supervisor*. Documentation to "Proof File," Legal Unit. Responsibility of project biologist to send memo to Field Services Administrator.

- III. For conservation easements, arrange meeting with county planning authority (90 days to comment). *Responsibility of Land Section Supervisor*. Copy to "Proof File," Legal Unit.

IV. Final EA/Decision Notice and Management Plan

- A. Mailing notice same as in II, with same responsibilities. No additional public comment needed. Final EA sent to Environmental Quality Control. *Responsibility of Regional Supervisor*. *NOTE: the Decision Notice by the Regional Supervisor is a decision on which alternative to recommend. The Supervisor does not have the authority to purchase property. That authority is with Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission only.*

- V. Baseline Inventory. Circumstances will dictate whether regional biologist develops the inventory or if it is done by contracted services. Field Services Administrator assists with options.
- VI. Decision of FWP Commission. Presentation to Commission. *Responsibility of Field Services Administrator.* Recorded minutes of the decision. *Responsibility of Land Section.* Copy to "Proof file," Legal Unit.
- VII. Presentation to State Land Board. *Responsibility of Director's Office.* Recorded minutes of decision by Land Board. *Responsibility of Land Section.* Copy to "Proof File," Legal Unit.

PROPOSED LAND PROJECT

1. Regional Supervisor: _____
2. Date: _____
3. Property Name: _____
4. Location: Region _____ County _____
5. Landownership: attach map indicating ownership of all lands affected by the proposal plus an ownership map with actual project site and property boundaries.
6. Habitat:
 - a. Identify habitat (s) as listed in Level I Criteria: _____
 - b. Identify the Land Criteria met by the proposal:

Level II:
 - Resource Values:
 - Threat Status:
 - Degree of Protection:
 - Geographic Location:
Level III:
 - Conserve and enhance land, water and wildlife.
 - Contribute to hunting and fishing opportunity.
 - Provide incentives for habitat conservation on private land.
 - Contribute to nonhunting recreation.
 - Protect open space and scenic areas.
 - Maintain local tax base, while demonstrating that productive wildlife habitat is compatible with agriculture and other land uses.

- c. Describe the current condition of the habitat.
- d. Provide species list and any population data.
- e. Provide current and potential opportunities for recreation.

7. Other Management Considerations

- a. Explain association with other land (public/private) and potential for trades; impacts such as game damage, taxes, increased manpower needs.
- b. Other resource values such as miles of water with a fishery; endangered or sensitive species.

8. Project Need

- a. Provide a narrative of why the project is needed. Why this habitat; why this geographical location; what species impacted and how; access considerations.
- b. Provide a narrative assessment of management implications should this project not be funded (null alternative).
- c. Describe briefly the management program that will be implemented on the property.

This is cover letter format:

POB 100701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
(Date)

Standard places to send an EA:

Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena 59620
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Wildlife Division
 Parks Division
 Fisheries Division
 Regional Information Officers
State Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society
State Library
OTHERS AS NEEDED

Dear Participants:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for (state project name) and is submitted for your consideration.

Any questions on this project should be addressed to the undersigned. Anyone wanting a public meeting on this proposal should also contact the undersigned. All comments should be forwarded by (date).

Sincerely,

Regional Supervisor

ea

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
1420 East 6th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-2535

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Title _____

Division/Bureau _____

Program _____

Description of Project _____

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	NONE	UNKNOWN	COMMENTS ON ATTACHED PAGES
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats						
2. Water quality, quantity & distribution						
3. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture						
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality						
5. Aesthetics						
6. Air quality						
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources						
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy						
9. Historical & archaeological sites						

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	NONE	UNKNOWN	COMMENTS ON ATTACHED PAGES
1. Social structures & mores						
2. Cultural uniqueness & diversity						
3. Local & state tax base & tax revenue						
4. Agricultural or industrial production						
5. Human health						
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income						
7. Access to & quality of recreational and wilderness activities						
8. Quantity & distribution of employment						
9. Distribution & density of population & housing						
10. Demands for government services						
11. Industrial & commercial activity						
12. Demands for energy						
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals						
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows						

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction _____

Individuals or groups contributing to this EA _____

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS _____

EA prepared by : _____

Date: _____

**Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Wildlife Division**

Environmental Assessment

- I. Location of Project
- II. Need for the Project
- III. Scope for the Project

Provide a comprehensive analysis of:

- a. the wildlife populations and use currently associated with the property;
- b. the potential value of the land for protection, preservation and propagation of wildlife;
- c. management goals proposed for the land and wildlife populations, and where feasible, any additional uses of the land such as livestock grazing or timber harvest;
- d. any potential impacts to adjacent private land resulting from proposed management goals, and plans to address such impacts;
- e. any significant potential social and economic impacts to affected local governments and the state, including but not limited to impacts on:
 - 1) tax revenue available for the operation of taxing jurisdictions within the county;
 - 2) services required to be provided by local governments;
 - 3) employment opportunities within the counties;
 - 4) local schools; and
 - 5) private businesses supplying goods and services to the community;

- IV. Environmental Impact Checklist

See the attached checklist.

- V. Explanation of Impacts to the Physical Environment.
- VI. Explanation of Impacts to the Human Environment.

VII. Discussion and Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives

- a. The "No Action" Alternative
- b. The Proposed Alternative
- c. Other Alternatives

VIII. Environmental Assessment Conclusion Section

- a. Is an EIS required?

This review has clearly demonstrated that negative impacts associated with this project are not significant. The net result of the proposed work is a positive improvement to the human and physical environment.

- b. Describe the level of public involvement.
- c. Duration of the comment period?
- d. Name, title, address and phone number of the person responsible for preparing the EA.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

II. PHYSICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SETTING

- A. Property Description
- B. Current Use
- C. Acquisition Alternatives

III. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Analyze any significant potential social and economic impacts to affected local governments and the state, including, but not limited to impacts on:

- A. Tax revenue available for the operation of taxing jurisdictions within the county.
- B. Services required to be provided by local governments.
- C. Employment opportunities within the counties.
- D. Local schools, and
- E. Private businesses supplying goods and services to the community.
- F. Net Benefit Analysis (optional).

IV. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

BASELINE INVENTORY FORMAT

A baseline inventory serves to document the condition of property at the time of transfer of ownership. A baseline inventory is especially necessary to accompany a conservation easement. The inventory is used as evidence of the condition of the property if, in the future, there is dispute over the management of the property in regards to the terms of the easement.

Each baseline inventory is tailored to the easement it accompanies. **THE INVENTORY MUST ADDRESS THE TERMS OF THE PARTICULAR EASEMENT.** Therefore, the following format gives the basic items needed. The volume and specificity of information required will vary depending on the terms of the easement. A baseline inventory is complete when it contains enough information to define each right and restriction written into the easement. Four basic considerations will help determine what is "enough." 1) The data should be sufficient to meet IRS requirements, if they apply; 2) data should be specific, but should include no more detail than necessary; 3) should be objective and 4) easy to duplicate.

FORMAT

COVER LETTER

Should state "Baseline Data for Conservation Easement granted by _____ on _____ property, _____ County _____ State _____ to _____ (grantee) _____."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Location and name of property

History of property

Purpose of the easement and summary of easement terms

Landowner acknowledgement of condition

CLIMATE AND PHYSIOGRAPHY

FLORA AND FAUNA

VEGETATION (*requires consultation with Habitat Bureau vegetation specialist*).

Community type Descriptions

Methods and Records of Vegetation Monitoring (photo points; transects).

NOTE: minimum vegetation monitoring will be photo points for important habitats or particular sites. These photopoints must be clearly marked to provide for future replication.

Species List (if available)
Species of particular value or concern

WILDLIFE

Methods and Records of Surveys
Species List (if available)
Species of particular value or concern

WATER SOURCES (photographic record)

Water rights records

LAND USES

Structures (photographic record)
Livestock Grazing
 record of grazing plan
 history of grazing use (aums; method of using land)
Timber Management (photographic record)
Recreational Access and Travel Management (a map)
Mineral Rights (map of claims or past activities)
Farming (map or aerial photo of cropland)
Cultural Resources (map or photos)

APPENDICES

Items that may add useful information to the inventory, ie land inholdings, right-of-ways; cultural survey report.

FINAL NOTE

A completed baseline inventory that is an available model is the Brewer Property inventory, July 1993, Greg Risdahl; and, Maher Property inventory, 1994, Dave Pac and Henry Jorgensen.

FORMAT FOR SITE MANAGEMENT PLANS

The management plans for leases and easements will most often be short. It will depend on whether there are management actions the department will be performing.

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction
2. Statement of Purpose for the Property
3. Funding Source

B. GOAL STATEMENT; OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

(This is the most important section of the management plan. It gives direction to the management activities).

The following must be part of the management plan:

1. Prioritize objectives and strategies when possible. Gives estimates of timeframes for strategies to be accomplished and objectives met.
2. Management goals/objectives for the land, i.e. habitat enhancements.
3. Management goals/objectives for wildlife populations.
4. Wildlife enjoyment (recreational) possibilities, including disabled access where appropriate.
5. Potential impacts to adjacent private landowners resulting from proposed management actions, as evaluated in the EA process, and plans to address such impacts.
6. Land maintenance objectives for weed control; road repair and fence maintenance.
7. Vegetation monitoring with transects; photo plots and/or exclosures. The minimum for vegetation monitoring will be photopoints for important habitats or particular sites. These photopoints must be marked to provide for future replication.

C. ANNUAL WORKPLAN

The annual work plan will be a yearly addendum to the management plan. The work plan solves stated objectives by carrying out strategies. The work plan is the action document that carries out the management plan. This allows us to see what we set out to accomplish, and what we did or did not get done. The management plan also allows a new individual to find in one document what the history of the WMA was, where we want to go based on our objectives, where we are headed, and how much we have accomplished. Items monitored should be the work plan projects to see if they actually worked to solve stated problems which were keeping us from reaching identified objectives. Monitoring the work plan is part of the management plan.

Ask yourself, did the strategies allow us to meet objectives? If not, why not? What other strategies must be put in place to fulfill the objective? This is why the management plan is flexible and will constantly change. It keeps us working on stated objectives. These objectives change as we meet our objectives and set new ones. Of course, some objectives are very long term, but each year the amount of progress must be recorded.

Work plans project layout (at beginning of year) and completion report (at end of year) will be included in the management plan as Appendix F.

WORK PLAN/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. SBAS Project No. Fiscal Year:
3. Fed. Aid Project #
Subproject #:
Study #:
Job #:
4. Proj. Cost (Fed.) Fed. % State %

Enter EITHER total project cost (Fed.) and federal percent OR federal percent and federal dollars. All other fields will be calculated from these combinations of the two fields.

Geographic Location of Work:
Principal Investigator:
5. Project Title:
6. Project Manager:
7. Budget Total \$
8. Number of FTEs: Total:
Perm Base: Temp. Base:
Perm NonBase: Temp. NonBase:
9. Is this a continuing project? Complete (YRMM):
10. Project Priority:
11. Is funded by redirected funds? Amt. Redirected: \$
12. Describe how this project relates to goals and objectives in your division/region. (Make reference to specific management plans as applicable).
13. What are the objectives and "outcomes" (use measurable outputs where possible) that will result if this project is completed? Include what the impact will be if this project is not done.
14. List tasks to be accomplished and time frames for completion of each, including reports. State as measurable performance standards whenever possible. Also, please state tasks that CANNOT be done this year with existing resources.

The following appendices apply to lands the department has owned for some time. With new purchases these appendices may simply reference other documents, i.e., for a conservation easement, Appendix A, B, and C would reference the baseline inventory. if the documentation exists, do not report it; just reference the source.

APPENDIX A: History

When we bought it, how much, what are the past and present use/activities. History of problems and what was done to solve them. Land management practices. Real or potential impact to adjacent lands and landowners and how to address such impacts.

APPENDIX B: Physical Description

Include vegetation communities; and vegetation transects (location and data); climate; geology/topography; surface/mineral ownership; water rights; legal description of areas owned/leased easement; structure i.e, buildings, fences, bridges, culverts, water impoundments, signs and boundary marker, public use facilities (recorded on aerial photos or xerox copies).

Real or potential impacts to adjacent lands and landowners and how to address such impact.

APPENDIX C: Wildlife Data

Wildlife distribution, densities and use by season and by species (record distribution on map/photos).

Real or potential impacts to adjacent lands and landowners and how to address such impact.

APPENDIX D: Travel Plan

Transportation network (travel plan) on the WMA, including public access points, road closures when and why. (Map showing open/closed roads).

Also rules and regulations for the WMA

Real or potential impacts to adjacent lands and landowners and how to address such impact.

APPENDIX E: Leases

Copy of agricultural leases; oil and gas leases; any other leases; and procedures for setting leases, if any.

Real or potential impacts to adjacent lands and landowners and how to address such impact.

APPENDIX F: Work Plans

Annual workplans (project description and completion reports).

Real or potential impacts to adjacent lands and landowners and how to address such impact.

Individual Project Timeline Chart

[illegible]

CHAPTER SIX

PARTNERSHIPS

procedures for working cooperatively with other organizations

PARTNERSHIPS

The mission of Habitat Montana may be more effectively accomplished through the actions of other parties in some situations.

Partners would not be limited to any group and should include agencies of all jurisdictions, private landowners and non-profit organizations.,

The intent of such partnerships is to encourage creativity and formalized partnership agreements.

Developing partnerships will occur as follows:

- 1) Informal phase: Dialogue - developed projects between proposed partner and the FWP staff as designated in the project flow chart. This stage is to encourage creativity and discuss level of formal/informal agreements. All partnerships will be based on established criteria stated in the Habitat Plan.
- 2) Threshold: the point at which a formal agreement is needed. Step 3 in the land project flow chart: the decision is reached to spend personnel resources and money.
- 3) Formal phase: guidelines for partnerships.
 - a) All parties agree on the intended outcomes of the partnerships; all have something to gain from the partnership; and the gains outweigh the extra time and resources the partnership will cost.
 - b) The partners are true partners, with full responsibility for their part of the project.
 - c) The agreement will be written in the form of an MOU expressing the purpose of the partnership; the benefits expected by all parties; the actions required, deadlines, responsibility for results, consequences of non-performance and detail funding statements on how costs will be shared.
 - d) The parties will agree in advance to procedures for regular communications and coordination of project activities.

CHAPTER SEVEN

MARKETING

informing our publics of habitat programs, land
acquisitions; and management strategies

PRESENT INFORMATION

- Statewide Wildlife Management Area Brochure
- Individual Wildlife Management Area Brochure for Certain WMA's
 - Freezout
 - Blackleaf
 - Blackfoot-Clearwater
- Montana Outdoors Land Legacy Reprints for WMA's
 - Dome Mountain
 - Blackleaf
 - Lake Helena
 - Freezout Lake
 - Mt. Haggin
 - Mt. Silcox
 - Elk Island/Seven Sisters
 - Blackfoot-Clearwater
 - Kootenai Falls
- HB 526 Reports to the 1989, 1991 and 1993 Montana Legislature
- Sheep/Moose Auction Reports to 1989, 1991, and 1993 Montana Legislature
- BPA Mitigation Annual Reports
- Conservation Easement Brochure
- MONTANA OUTDOORS Reprint on Waterfowl Habitat Enhancement Program
- Coordinated Management of Elk and Cattle, A Perspective - Wall Creek WMA (Rangelands 14 (1): Feb. 1992)
- Grazing Private and Public Land to Improve the Fleecer Elk Winter Range (Rangelands 13(6): Dec. 1991).
- Elk Habitat Use Within a Rest-Rotation Grazing System (Rangelands 14(2): April 1992)
- Wildlife Management Area Plans
- MONTANA OUTDOORS Reprint on Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program

PLANNED INFORMATION

- Update of Statewide Wildlife Management Area Brochure
- Continued Montana Outdoors Land Legacy Reprints for WMA's
- 1995 HB 526 Report to the Montana Legislature
- 1995 Sheep/Moose Auction Report to Montana Legislature
- BPA Annual Report
- Habitat Montana Program Booklet

CHAPTER EIGHT

EXPENDITURES

accounting procedures

EXPENDITURES

All expenditure and revenue activity is processed through the Statewide Budgeting and Accounting System (SBAS). All Habitat Montana activity will be tracked on separate accounting entities and projects.

Each fiscal year, the Administration and Finance Division will meet with the wildlife division administrator to ensure all expenditures are itemized to track Habitat Montana activity.

Quarterly, a state overhead assessment will be charged to the account based on previous quarter actual expenditures. The rate is set every biennium. At present the rate is 4.2 percent for capital dollars and 10.9 percent for operation dollars. The assessment is made to all state accounts to cover some of the administrative services provided to the program.

CHAPTER NINE

PROGRAM EVALUATION

methodology

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The 1991 legislature through SB 252 ordered a comprehensive review of wildlife habitat acquisitions, improvement and development. Two consultants, ECON, Inc. and Canyon Consulting, worked independently. Canyon Consulting proceeded as follows to identify the constituency for habitat conservation and the public desires.

Canyon Consulting employed a market research approach to determine the people who are interested in and affected by the department's habitat program. The consultant also defined the values which these people share and the services that they expect the department and the commission to deliver in a habitat program. The consultant assumed that the department could define a scientifically defensible habitat program to deliver that service and our constituents then would accept the program.

Twenty-one department personnel, from various work units and disciplines, participated in the internal "Service Team." They developed hypotheses about values important to people who have a stake in the protection of wildlife habitat. These hypotheses then were qualitatively tested through a series of focus group meetings.

Meetings were held in each regional headquarters city. Each meeting was attended by 17 to 25 people, specifically selected to represent a variety of interests and perspectives. A ninth meeting was scheduled in Helena for designated representatives of established organizations that have a continuing interest in habitat protection.

The service team used the input from the focus groups to revise the initial predictions and assist the consultant with the development of a quantitative survey. Mailing lists were requested from the same organizations that were invited to the ninth focus group. Representative samples were drawn from these lists and the survey was mailed to about 3,900 Montanans. Survey results were tabulated and provided to the department. The survey results allow the department to evaluate various habitat initiatives and their constituency support.

Canyon Consulting used the survey to describe the profiles of various interests who are affected by the department's habitat programs. The consultant also was able to describe values that are important and common to most Montanans, irrespective of their interest in the habitat programs. Canyon Consulting's recommendations are designed so the department and FWP Commission can serve those common values through habitat protection.

Canyon's report suggests that the public will support our habitat programs if we satisfy several basic criteria:

1. *The department must meet the needs that the public perceives as important, even when the needs of the department's various publics differ.*
2. *The department must respond to those needs with services that cannot be obtained elsewhere.*

3. *The department must meet the highest standards of quality for wildlife stewardship and public service,*
4. *The public must perceive our service as useful, unique and high quality.*
5. *In delivering public service, we have a responsibility to treat everyone equitably.*

Public support for our habitat program also is contingent on the department's ability to manage a program that serves shared public values. People expect a habitat program to:

1. *Conserve Montana's land, water and wildlife resources as a whole, productive system.*
2. *Protect that system against emerging threats so it remains intact for future generations.*
3. *Act with equitable regard for the interests of all stakeholders and without unduly favoring any.*

By 1997 the department will again test the public's concern and desire for habitat conservation.

1027.1



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